SHRI SHANKERSINH VAGHELA: Sir, in 2002-03, the B.E. was Rs. 140.00 crore and expenditure was Rs. 130.83 crore; and in 2003-04, the B.E. was Rs. 156.77 crore, while expenditure was Rs. 130.28 crore. From 2003-04, the expenditure was only up to a level of our target. But, Sir, in 2004-05, our total expenditure increased nearly to Rs. 195.63 crore, which is 33 per cent.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Question Hour is over.

WRITTEN ANSWERS TO STARRED QUESTIONS

Export of cash crops

*302. SHRIMATI PREMA CARIAPPA:
PROF. ALKA BALRAM KSHATRIYA:

Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the export of cash crops, particularly cashew nuts and import of cashew kernels in India for each of the last three years;

(b) whether Government have taken any steps to modernize the industry by introducing new technology;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) the steps proposed to increase export of cash crops?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI E.V.K.S. ELANGOVAN): (a) Export data of some of the major cash crops including cashew kernels for the last three years is given below:

(Quantity: Metric Tonne/Value: Rupees crores)

Commodity	2002-03		2003-04		2004-05	
	Quantity	Value	Quantity	Valu	Quantity	Value
Cashew Kernels	104137	1933.02	100828	1804.43	126667	2709.24
Spices	264107	2086.71	254382	1911.60	335488	2200.00
Tea	184400	1665.04	183070	1636.99	205820	1924.71
Coffee	207333	1051.45	232684	1158.45	195016	1108.74
Tobacco	87557	1505.95	150962	1175.63	162933	1362.18

(Source: Commodity Boards/Cashew Export Promotion Council)

Import of raw cashewnuts during the last three years is given below:

Year	Import of Raw cashewnut	
	Metric Tonne	Rupes crores
2002-03	400659	836.57
2003-04	452398	1400.93
2004-05	578884	2183.26

(Source: Cashew Export Promotion Council)

(b) and (c) In order to improve the quality of cashew kernels to meet requirements of international standards, the Department of Commerce, through the Cashew Export Promotion Council, is implementing on a continuing basis an integrated scheme for improving cashew kernel quality which includes setting up/improving the facilities for cashew kernals in value added Form/Consumer Packs, quality up gradation by process improvement, implementation of internationally accepted certification scheme and introduction of Flexi Pouch Vacuum Packing System. Under the scheme, financial assistance is provided to cashew kernel exporters. The Ministry of Food Processing Industries is also operating Plan Schemes under which assistance is provided for setting up/expansion/ modernization of food processing units.

(d) In order to ensure growth of export of agro-products, the Government, through the Commodity Boards/Authorities and Export Promotion Councils have been providing assistance for conducting publicity campaigns, 3ket surveys, sending delegations abroad, participating in international trade fairs, inviting potential buyers besides providing financial assistance for improving quality, packaging, brand promotion of the products etc.

Steps to improve balance of trade with ASEAN

*305. SHRI RAJKUMAR DHOOT: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that steep import tariffs slapped by Association of South East Asian Nation (ASEAN) have been disturbing India's trade balance with them;